

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are currently pending in the application; however, the Office Action indicates that only claims 1-34 are pending. Correction is respectfully requested. Claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,014,644 to Erickson ("Erickson"). As the Office has not indicated that claim 35 stands rejected, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 35 is in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

As indicated above, claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Erickson. Independent claim 1 recites "a security module operable to decrypt the user documents." Independent claim 11 recites "decrypting the user documents." Independent claim 23 recites "decrypt the user documents." Thus, each of the rejected claims relates to **decrypting** user documents.

The Office Action alleges Erickson teaches "a security interface (access, also note that portions of documents are released at times denoting access levels)." The Office Action fails to indicate Erickson discloses any feature relating to **decrypting** user documents. Because the Office has failed to identify wherein each and every facet of the claimed invention is disclosed in the applied reference, the rejection is *prima facie* deficient and should be withdrawn.

Moreover, Erickson fails to teach or suggest any system, method, or software operable to decrypt any document. In fact, Erickson is silent with regard to protecting information stored within its databases but, rather, focuses on a system and method for facilitating communication between a plurality of buyers and a plurality of suppliers. Because Erickson fails to disclose every limitation of the rejected claims in the same relationship to one another as set forth in the claims, Erickson cannot anticipate the present invention as set forth in the rejected claims. Further, Erickson fails to even suggest the desirability of protecting the data stored within its databases and, therefore,

cannot suggest the desirability of decrypting such information. For at least these reasons, claims 1-34 are patentable over Erickson.

Moreover, independent claim 1 requires "one or more document repositories operable to store a plurality of user documents." Independent claim 11 recites "storing a plurality of user documents in one or more document repositories." Independent claim 23 recites "store a plurality of user documents in one or more document repositories." Thus, each of the rejected claims relates to storing **documents** in one or more **document** repositories.

The Office alleges Erickson's databases 24, 34, 36 are "one or more document repositories" (Detailed Action, p. 2, l. 13). Erickson, however, teaches that databases 24, 34, 36 are for storing information "to locate information about potential buyers of end goods or services" (col. 8, ll. 61-62) or "to locate suppliers of goods or services" (col. 8, ll. 63-64). Databases may contain "company profiles of suppliers" (col. 9, l. 6), such as "a supplier ID, the company name, the address of the company, various telephone numbers", *etc.* (col. 9, ll. 11-14). Erickson teaches this information is stored as **fields**, not **documents**, such as "text fields containing information such as a brief company profile, notes, and so forth" (col. 9, ll. 15-16). In fact, all of the information described by Erickson is field-type information, rather than documents, such as "E-mail addresses, internet home page URL", or the like (col. 9, l. 36). Accordingly, Erickson fails to teach or disclose storing **documents** in one or more **document** repositories. For at least this reason, the rejected claims are allowable over Erickson and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Note that, while claim 35 is not included in the rejection over Erickson, it is allowable over Erickson for at least the same reasons set forth above concerning claims 1-34.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Erickson, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Legal Standard for Anticipation Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The following sets forth the legal standards for "anticipation."

The events that can lead to anticipation can be divided into the following seven categories, all defined by statute:

1. Prior Knowledge: The invention was publicly known in the United States before the patentee invented it.
2. Prior Use: The invention was publicly used in the United States either (i) before the patentee invented it; or (ii) more than one year before he filed his patent application.
3. Prior Publication: The invention was described in a printed publication anywhere in the world either (i) before the patentee invented it; or (ii) more than one year before he filed his patent application.
4. Prior Patent: The invention was patented in another patent anywhere in the world either (i) before the patentee invented it; or (ii) more than one year before he filed his application.
5. On Sale: The invention was on sale in the United States more than one year before the patentee filed his application.
6. Prior Invention: The invention was invented by another person in the United States before the patentee invented it, and that other person did not abandon, suppress or conceal the invention.
7. Prior U.S. Patent: The invention was described in a patent granted on a patent application filed in the United States before the patentee made the invention.

Each of those seven events has its own particular requirements, but they all have the following requirements in common:

1. Anticipation must be shown by clear and convincing evidence.

2. If one prior art reference completely embodies the same process or product as any claim, the product or process of that claim is anticipated by the prior art, and that claim is invalid. To decide whether anticipation exists, one must consider each of the elements recited in the claim and determine whether all of them are found in the particular item alleged to be anticipating prior art.

3. There is no anticipation unless every one of those elements is found in a *single* prior publication, prior public use, prior invention, prior patent, prior knowledge or prior sale. One may not combine two or more items of prior art to make out an anticipation. One should, however, take into consideration, not only what is expressly disclosed or embodied in the particular item of prior art, but also what inherently occurred in its practice.

4. There cannot be an accidental or unrecognized anticipation. A prior duplication of the claimed invention that was accidental, or unrecognized, unappreciated, and incidental to some other purpose is not an invalidating anticipation.

Those four requirements must be kept in mind and applied to each kind of anticipation in issue. The following additional requirements apply to some categories of anticipation.

1. Prior Knowledge: An invention is anticipated if it was known by others in the United States before it was invented by the patentee. "Known," in this context, means known to the public. Private knowledge, secret knowledge or knowledge confined to a small, limited group is not necessarily an invalidating anticipation. Things that were known to the public only outside the United States are not invalidating anticipation.

2. Prior Use: An invention is anticipated if it was used by others before it was invented by the patentee, or more than one year before the patentee filed his patent application. "Use," in this context, means a public use.

3. Prior Publication: A patent is invalid if the invention defined by the claims was described in a printed publication before it was invented by the patentee or more than one year prior to the filing date of his application. For a publication to constitute an

anticipation of an invention, it must be capable, when taken in conjunction with the knowledge of people of ordinary skill in the art, of placing the invention in the possession of the reader. The disclosure must be enabling and meaningful. In determining whether the disclosure is complete, enabling, and meaningful, one should take into account what would have been within the knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time, and one may consider other publications that shed light on the knowledge such a person would have had.

4. Prior Patent: If the invention defined by the claims was patented in the United States or a foreign country, either before it was invented by the inventor or more than one year before the inventor filed his patent application, then the invention was anticipated. The effective date for this type of anticipation is the date on which two things co-existed: (i) the owner of the referenced patent had the right to enforce that patent; and (ii) the reference patent was available to the public. What was "patented" in the reference patent is determined by what is defined by its claims, interpreted in the light of the general description.

5. On Sale: A patent is invalid if the invention claimed in it was on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the application filing date.

6. Prior Invention: If the invention defined by the claims was invented by another person, in the United States, before it was invented by the inventor, and that other person did not abandon, suppress, or conceal the invention, the invention lacks novelty. A prior invention, even if put in physical form and shown to produce the desired result, is not an invalidating anticipation unless some steps were taken to make it public. However, it is not necessary that the inventor had knowledge of that prior invention.

7. Prior U.S. Application: A patent is invalid for lack of novelty if the invention defined by the claims was described in a United States patent issued on a patent application filed by another person before the invention was made by the inventor. The effective date of a prior application for purposes of this issue is the date on which it was filed in the United States. Foreign-filed patent applications do not apply. If the issued United States patent claims the benefit of more than one United States application, its

effective date as an anticipation is the filing date of the first United States application that discloses the invention claimed in that referenced patent.

Experimental Use Exception: The law recognizes that it is beneficial to permit the inventor the time and opportunity to develop his invention. As such there is an "experimental use" exception to the "public use" and "on sale" rules. Even though the invention was publicly used or on sale, more than one year prior to the application filing date, that does not invalidate the patent, provided the principal purpose was experimentation rather than commercial benefit. If the primary purpose was experimental, it does not matter that the public used the invention or that the inventor incidentally derived profit from it.

When a public use or sale is shown, the burden is on the inventor to come forward with evidence to support the experimental use exception. Only experimentation by or under the control of the inventor qualifies for this exception. Experimentation by a third party, for its own purposes, does not qualify for this exception. Once the invention leaves the inventor's control, its use is a public one, even if further experimentation takes place.

The experimentation must relate to the claimed features of the invention. And it must be for the purpose of technological improvement, not commercial exploitation. If any commercial exploitation does occur, it must be merely incidental to the primary purpose of experimentation. A test done primarily for marketing, and only incidentally for technological improvement, is a public use.

CONCLUSION


The Applicant submits that all of the Examiner's rejections are hereby traversed and overcome. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not shown by clear and convincing evidence that the claimed invention would have been anticipated by Erickson. For the reasons set forth herein, the Applicant submits that claims 1-35 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that claims 1-35 be allowed.

A Request for Extension for Response Within the Second Month, including an authorization to charge the Extension Fee to Deposit Account No. **500777**. No other fees are deemed to be necessary; however, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. **500777**. Should the balance in this deposit account be insufficient to fund the required fees, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to alternatively charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. **502806**.

Please link this application to Customer No. 38441 so that its status may be checked via the PAIR System.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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